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PETER A. DEFazio  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

November 7, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan  
Acting Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E St. SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Re. STB Finance Docket No. 35160 Oregon International Port of Coos Bay – Feeder Line  
Application – Coos Bay Line of the Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad, Inc

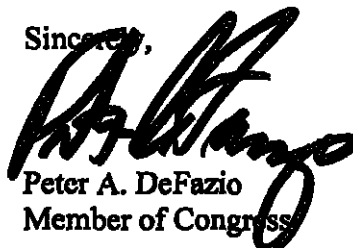
Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I write to encourage the Board to extend its timeline for the Port of Coos Bay to come to a final agreement to purchase the Coos Bay Line from the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad (CORP)

I was pleased with the Board's decision of October 31<sup>st</sup> to grant the Port's feeder line application in order to force the sale of the Coos Bay Line. However, due to a number of factors outside the Port's control they are in need of more time to put together the funding to purchase the Line. It is my understanding that once the price has been set by the Board and the Port agrees to move forward, it is typical for the Board to set a deadline of 90 days in which to complete the sale. Because of the recent downturn in the credit markets and the schedule of the Oregon Legislature and Congress, 90 days simply isn't enough time. The Oregon Legislature, which may provide sources of funding in addition to the \$4 million the state has already committed, does not meet again until January. Additionally, while I have inserted language into a bill to provide \$8 million to the Port for purchase of the Line, it is unclear whether Congress will be able to act on the bill before the end of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. Finally, the Port has filed an application for a Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing loan with the Federal Railroad Administration, which will take up to 180 days to process.

For these reasons I respectfully request the Board consider granting the Port of Coos Bay an additional 120 days in which to complete the sale of the Line. Using public funds to purchase the Coos Bay Line is in everyone's best interest and the Port deserves the best chance possible to do so.

Sincerely,

  
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress